

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claims 1-2, 4, 6 and 8-12 are rejected. Dependent claims 3, 5 and 7 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten into independent form.

In response, Applicants rewrite claim 3 into independent form by incorporating the features of claim 3 and intermediate claim 2 into claim 1. Claim 5 is rewritten into independent form by adding the features of claim 1 and intermediate claim 4. Claim 7 is rewritten into independent form by adding the features of claim 1 and intermediate claim 6. Dependent claims 8 and 9, which are dependent on claim 1 and add further limitations thereto, are retained. New dependent claims 13-14 and 15-16 recite the same features as claims 8-9 but are dependent on claims 5 and 7, respectively.

Applicants believe the present application is now in condition for allowance. If any issues remain to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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Certificate of Transmssion

I certify that this Response to Office Action After Final Rejection is being transmitted by facsimile on March 24, 2005 to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at telephone number (703) 872-9306.



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